MARVEL

A JESSICA JONES MYSTERY

by GAIL SIMONE & PHIL NOTO

THE WARIANTS

"This series is everything great about modern super-hero comics." – Henchman-4-Hire

noto

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Jessica Jones is the former costumed adventurer known as Jewel, though she retains her superhuman strength, invulnerability and healing. Over the years, Jessica has been many things: a super hero, private investigator, wife, mother, friend and more.

Across the **Multiverse**, there exist infinite versions of Jessica from countless realities.

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1

noto

I USED TO HANG HERE.

HELL, I PRACTICALLY LIVED IN THIS PLACE.

LONG CONVERSATIONS LEADING NOWHERE.

LINGERING BECAUSE I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO BE ALONE AND I COULDN'T STAND TO ACTUALLY *BE* AROUND ANYONE.

UNLESS I WAS IN A PARTICULARLY BLACK MOOD. OR HORNY.

WHICH I ALWAYS WAS.

SAME THING, SAME DAMN THING.

BAD INPUT, BAD OUTCOME.

UNTIL LUKE.

BEAUTIFUL, ENDLESS LUCAS CAGE.

STOMPING GROUNDS

I REMEMBER WE WERE GOING TO BE MARRIED. I WANTED TO BE ENDLESS AND BEAUTIFUL FOR HIM, A LITTLE.

JUST FOR ONE DAY.

I, *UH*... I NEED SOME STUFF. LIPSTICK, I GUESS. I'M GETTING MARRIED.

THAT'S ***WONDERFUL.*** WHAT COLOR WERE YOU THINKING?

GEEZ, I DON'T KNOW.

BLACK...?

FOR A WEDDING?

RED, THEN. I MEANT RED.

MA'AM.

WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO NARROW IT DOWN.

I ASKED HER NAME AND SHE SAID BRININA, LIKE IT WAS THE MOST COMMON NAME IN THE WORLD.

THIS WAS HER PLACE OF POWER, LIKE LATVERIA FOR LIPSTICK AND $400 BOTTLES OF JANET VAN DYNE'S SIGNATURE SCENT.

WHICH WAS CALLED *"WINSOME,"* BY THE WAY.

I COULD LITERALLY *FEEL* HER BEGIN TO TAKE PITY ON ME.

NOT ENTIRELY UNWELCOME, IF I'M BEING HONEST.

FOR LUKE, FOR US, I'D BE HER PET PROJECT FOR A WHILE.

"THERE ARE OVER TWO HUNDRED SHADES HERE, MA'AM," SHE SAID.

"AND EACH ONE WILL MAKE YOU A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT ***PERSON.***"

"OKAY," I THOUGHT.

"TRANSPORT ME. ***TAKE*** ME THERE."

HUH.

THE COFFEE SHOP... THOUGHT I SAW...

NEVER MIND.

THESE *HEADACHES* LATELY.

IT TOOK ALMOST HALF AN HOUR. I'M SURE SHE CAUGHT FLAMING HELL FROM HER SUPERVISOR, WASTING ALL THAT TIME FOR ONE PALTRY SALE.

LISTEN, I WANT TO THANK YOU--

OH, NO, MA'AM. YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY THAT EASY.

IN HIGH SCHOOL, I ACTIVELY AVOIDED THE PRETTY, POPULAR PRINCESSES.

THIS TIME... I DON'T KNOW. NOT SO TOUGH.

I'M SO HAPPY FOR YOU.

GO BE HAPPY FOR YOU TOO. OKAY?

MIGRAINE.

IT ALWAYS FEELS LIKE SPIN-ART MADE OF NEEDLES.

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MISS? DO YOU NEED--?

I'M GOOD. I'M PERFECT. THANK YOU.

"WHAT COLOR WERE YOU THINKING?"

GEEZ, I DON'T KNOW.

BLACK...?

MISS!

MISS!

SORRY, OLD FELLA...

DAREDEVIL

...BUT I *NEVER* MISS.

JESSICA.

IT'S MATT.

YOU PASSED OUT.

DAMN.

THIRD TIME IN TWO *DAYS.*

YOU QUIT DRINKING COFFEE.

YEAH. WAIT.

YOU CAN *SENSE* THAT ON ME?

I CAN.

IT'S COMPLICATED.

BUT ALSO, YOU'VE BEEN STARING AT THAT COFFEE PLACE LIKE A DOG WATCHES THANKSGIVING SUPPER. TWO *DAYS* NOW.

WOULD YOU BELIEVE ME IF I SAID IT WAS FOR A P.I. GIG?

I WOULD.

MOSTLY AS A COURTESY, JESSICA.

HAVING A FRIEND YOU CAN'T LIE TO IS A BIT OF A PAIN IN THE ASS, IF I'M BEING HONEST.

I SWEAR, IF YOU SAY YOU'RE BRINGING THE DEFENDERS BACK TOGETH--

I'M NOT.

IT'S MARIA. SHE NEEDS YOU AT THAT HEARING.

LISTEN TO HIM, IN HIS RIDICULOUS COCOON OF CONFIDENCE.

DON'T *PUSH* ME, MATT.

WE'RE FRIENDS. BUT THERE ARE *LIMITS.*

SHE HAS *NO ONE.*

NO ONE BUT US.

WELL, THEN MAYBE MISS PRISS SHOULDN'T HAVE BURNED HER *HOUSE* DOWN WITH HER FAMILY STILL IN IT, YOU THINK?

THERE'S NO ONE ELSE, JESS.

HE KNOWS. HE KNOWS HE'S WON.

DAMMIT.

"MORNING BLUSH." THAT'S WHAT I PICKED.

EXCUSE ME?

IT WAS GIRLY. *PINK. EXTRA* LEVELS OF GIRLY.

OKAY.

I'LL BE THERE.

YOU SAY, "I KNOW" AND I'LL BASH YOUR FACE IN FOR YOU, MATT.

...

SO NOTED.

MORNING BLUSH.

SO.

WANT A RIDE HOME?

WANT A BUNCH OF THROW-UP ON YOUR SUIT?

TOMORROW MORNING, JESSICA. DON'T SCOWL.

WEAR SOMETHING LESS SCARY, PLEASE.

SOME OF THAT COMMUNITY, EVEN SOME AVENGERS... YOU WONDER WHY THEY DO WHAT THEY DO.

WHAT THEY *REALLY* GET OUT OF IT.

NOT HIM. NOT MATT.

WHEN THE BLIND GUY HATES YOUR OUTFIT. *HUH.*

MAYBE I NEED TO SEE BRININA AGAIN.

LUKE.

THE MOUNTAIN I CLIMB.

ENDLESS.

PERFECT. AND YET--

--THAT NIGHT, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MONTHS...

...I DREAM OF *HIM*. AND THE WORLD'S UGLIEST ANNIVERSARY.

KILLGRAVE.

AND SLEEP IS A MEAN ***BASTARD*** THE REST OF THE NIGHT.

SO BAD THAT EVEN THE MORNING SUN LOOKS HATEFUL.

JESSICA! WE MISSED YOU, SWEETIE!

STOMPING GROUNDS

SNACKS
MUFFINS 3.50
BREAKFAST SANDWICHES
EGG 4.50
BACON 5.00
SAUSAGE 5.00
COMBO 6.00

HOT
DRIP COFFEE 2.29
DOUBLE ESPRESSO 3.49
CAPPUCCINO 3.79
LATTE 4.49
MACCHIATO 2.50
HOT TEA

COLD
ICED COFFEE 2.50
ICED LATTE 3.50
COLD BREW 3.49
ICED MOCHA 4.00
ICED CHAI 3.00
NITRO 4.00

MORE

...

I DON'T SEE HOW.

THE USUAL, RIO.

ARE YOU SURE? I THOUGHT YOU-- NEVER MIND, I GOT THIS.

HEY, IF IT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR PRESIDENTS AND POETS, RIGHT?

THEY WERE BACK AGAIN. THEY WANT MORE *MONEY.*

JESSICA, I CAN'T PAY IT. YOU GOTTA HELP.

WHO WANTS MONEY, AGAIN?

WHO'S MAKING YOU PAY PROTECTION?

YOU *KNOW* WHO. I *TOLD* YOU. THAT'S WHAT I'M *PAYING* YOU FOR.

HAMMERHEAD.

STOMPING GROUNDS

NOW, RIO, YOU AIN'T CASTING NO *ASPERSIONS* ON MY GOOD NAME, ARE YOU?

I'D HATE TO THINK WE'RE NOT GONNA BE *FRIENDS* NO MORE.

YOU KNOW, I BEEN THINKING.

HOW ABOUT ONE OF YOUR CUSTOMERS GETS HER FACE BURNED, LIKE, REAL BAD. MAYBE THAT'LL OPEN THOSE STINGY POCKETS.

I MEAN, REAL, *REAL* BAD. HOW'D THAT BE FOR A MONDAY MORNIN'?

MAYBE *THIS* LITTLE STORM CLOUD, *HUH*, RIO?

WHO'RE *YOU*, LOOKING AT *HAMMERHEAD* LIKE THAT?

WELL.

I'M NOT THE PRESIDENT.

AND TRUTHFULLY, I'M NOT MUCH OF A *POET* EITHER.

AHHHAAAAH!

SHE CRACKED MY LEG OPEN!

KILL HER. KILL HER.

SMASH!

GAAHHH!

GKLLK!

THWACK!

FECKLESS BASTARDS. IN MY COFFEE SHOP?

IN MY COFFEE SHOP?

LOOK AT THIS BRILLIANT DISGUISE, RIO.

A DAMN HAT.

DOES THIS SACK OF CRAP LOOK LIKE A MOB BOSS TO YOU?

AMBULANCE. PLEASE. AMBULANCE.
PIPE DOWN, SQUIGGY, 'FORE I FLATTEN YOUR SKULL FOR *REAL*.
THIS ABOUT CLOSES YOUR ACCOUNT, RIO, WOULDN'T YOU SAY?
ANYTHING. ANYTHING YOU WANT, JESSICA.
WOULD IT *KILL YOU* TO GET ME A &#%$@# *DANISH*?
TURNS OUT, BY CERTAIN STRAIGHT, WHITE GUY STANDARDS...
...MY WHOLE *WARDROBE* IS SCARY.
IT'LL *HAVE* TO DO, MATT.
Hell's Kitchen DELI
"--AGAIN, YOU UNDERSTAND THIS IS NOT A TRIAL, MS. SNYDER.
"THIS IS IN FACT AN INFORMAL HEARING TO ASSESS YOUR COMPETENCY TO STAND TRIAL AND YOUR CAPACITY TO ALLOW FOR A PROPER DEFENSE FOR THE SERIOUS ALLEGATIONS AGAINST YOU.
FOURTH COMMUNITY COURTHOUSE
"YOU DO NOT *HAVE* TO SPEAK. DO YOU UNDERSTAND?"
SORRY I'M LATE, MATT.
I UNDERSTAND, YOUR HONOR.
I WANT TO--
I NEED TO TALK ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED.

YOUR HONOR, MS. SNYDER HAS SUFFERED A TRAUMA UNIMAGINABLE TO MOST OF US. SHE WANTS HER NAME CLEARED, AS ANY OF US WOULD.

GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, I DO NOT ENVY YOU, COUNSELOR.

THIS ENTIRE THING, THIS HEARING. IT'S DOOMED FROM THE START.

I DIDN'T KILL MY FAMILY, YOUR HONOR.

ZEBEDIAH KILLGRAVE, KNOWN AS THE PURPLE MAN, DID.

ANNNNDDDD... SHE'S SCREWED.

SEE, NORMAL PEOPLE-- THEY DON'T *WANT* TO BELIEVE IN MIND CONTROL.

THEY NEED TO DOUBT IT. "*PUPPET MASTER COMPLEX*," THEY CALL IT.

BECAUSE THEY'RE AFRAID IT COULD HAPPEN TO *THEM.*

AND THAT IS A REALITY THEY CANNOT *FACE.*

YOUR GUILT OR INNOCENCE IS NOT WITHIN THIS HEARING'S PURVIEW, MS. SNYDER.

MY UNDERSTANDING IS THIS INDIVIDUAL IS *DECEASED*, MS. SNYDER.

WELL, NO.

BUT HE MIGHT AS *WELL* BE.

HE'S IN A *COMA.* BUT NO ONE *KNOWS* THAT.

HE...HE CONTROLLED ME. I DON'T KNOW HOW.

I DID EVERYTHING. *EVERYTHING.* TO SCRUB HIM FROM ME.

BUT ONE NIGHT, HE WAS JUST...BACK.

INSIDE OF ME. IN MY *HEAD.*

LAUGHING, AS I POURED THE KEROSENE.

LAUGHING.

AND IT GOES JUST AS WE ALL KNEW IT WOULD.

I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO FEEL AT THIS POINT.

SHE WANTS TO TALK TO YOU, JESS.

THE JUDGE OKAY WITH THAT?

HE OWES ME A FAVOR.

IS SHE GONNA SKIP ON THE CHARGES?

NOT *THAT* BIG A FAVOR.

JESSICA, YOU'RE THE *ONLY* ONE WHO UNDERSTANDS WHAT SHE'S ALLEGING.

YES. YES, I AM.

AND IT'S MAKING MY *KNEES* SHAKE SO BAD, I CAN BARELY STAND *UP.*

SO, YOU, UH...

...YOU WANTED TO SEE ME?

MS. JONES.

JONES-*CAGE.*

BEFORE *HE* TOOK YOU...HE TOOK *ME.*

EVERYTHING HE DID TO YOU--

--HE PERFECTED ON *ME* FIRST.

THE TORTURE. THE HUMILIATION.

"HE *MARKED* ME. I WAS JUST...SOMEONE WHO ENTERED HIS FIELD OF VISION ONE DAY.

"AND THEN HE WAS IN MY *MIND*. YOU *KNOW*.

"UNTIL ONE DAY... ONE BLESSED, GOD-GIVEN DAY--

"--HE GOT *BORED*. LET ME *GO*.

"WITH A CRANIUM FULL OF *RAZORS* WHERE MY MEMORIES USED TO BE."

KILLGRAVE IS *BEYOND* BEING ABLE TO HURT ANYONE, MARIA.

I'VE SEEN HIM. I *KNOW*.

YOU THINK I'M BEGGING YOU TO HELP ME, MS. JONES-CAGE.

I'M NOT. I'M *WARNING* YOU.

HE LAID A TRAP. A LAND MINE. IN MY *BRAIN*.

I WOULD *NEVER* KNOW PEACE, HE SAID. EVEN AFTER HE LET ME GO.

TEN YEARS TO THE *DAY*.

I HEARD HIS VOICE *AGAIN*.

YOU THINK HE WOULDN'T HAVE PLANTED THE SAME EVIL POISON IN *YOU*?

GET AWAY, JESSICA.

GO SOMEWHERE *FAR*.

NO.

SHE'S *LYING*.

YOUR FAMILY.

STAY AWAY FROM YOUR *FAMILY*.

YOU KNEW. AND YOU DIDN'T *TELL* ME.

ONLY WHAT SHE TOLD ME. ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE, JESS.

YOU *KNEW.*

STAY AWAY FROM ME, MATT.

I'M *WARNING* YOU.

STAY AWAY FROM MY *FAMILY.*

TEN YEARS TO THE DAY. SINCE HE ABDUCTED *ME.*

THAT'S *TOMORROW.*

I GRAB AN UBER. I DON'T EVEN REMEMBER CALLING FOR IT.

AND THEN I CALL FOR SOME *INSURANCE.*

JENNIFER. PLEASE DON'T ASK WHY.

I NEED SOME GREEN *MUSCLE.*

OKAY. I'M NOT THINKING STRAIGHT, I GET THAT.

IF WHAT SHE SAYS IS TRUE, THIS IS THE *LAST* PLACE I SHOULD BE.

BUT I CAN'T *STOP* NOT IF *THANOS* WAS IN THE DOORWAY.

INSTANTLY, IT FEELS OFF.

LIKE SOMEONE'S... LIKE SOMEONE'S *HERE.*

SOUNDS.

FROM *DANIELLE'S* ROOM.

OH. OH, YOU POOR THING, WHOEVER YOU ARE.

YOU BREAK INTO *MY* HOUSE, *MY* DAUGHTER'S ROOM.

ON *THIS DAY.*

WHAT A LOUSY MORNING YOU'RE ABOUT TO *HAVE,* LADY.

WHO...?

THE *DAY* BEFORE THE ANNIVERSARY...IT *CAN'T* BE COINCIDENCE.

SHE'S WITH *HIM.*

ALL RIGHT.

UNGGH.

WHERE'S LUKE? WHERE'S MY *HUSBAND?*

WHERE'S MY *DAUGHTER?*

I'LL TEAR YOUR *HEAD* OFF.

DON'T HAVE A *DOUBT.*

WHAT THE HOLY HELL?

IT'S ME. SHE'S *ME.*

IS THIS A *SKRULL* THING OR--?

ACTUALLY...

...WHO *CARES?*

ALL RIGHT, TWINSIE.

WHAT ARE YOU *DOING* IN MY *HOUSE?*

WELL, FOR A START...

...THIS IS *MY* HOUSE, FREAK.

AND *MY* WELCOME ISN'T GOING TO BE *NEARLY* SO *SWEET.*

WHACK

OW.

YOU *BOTH* CAN TAKE A HARD TIME-OUT, LADIES.

THAT *HURT.*

WAIT.

WHAT IN THE *WORLD...?*

I MEAN, UNLESS YOU WANT TO TRY MESSING WITH **CAPTAIN AMERICA**

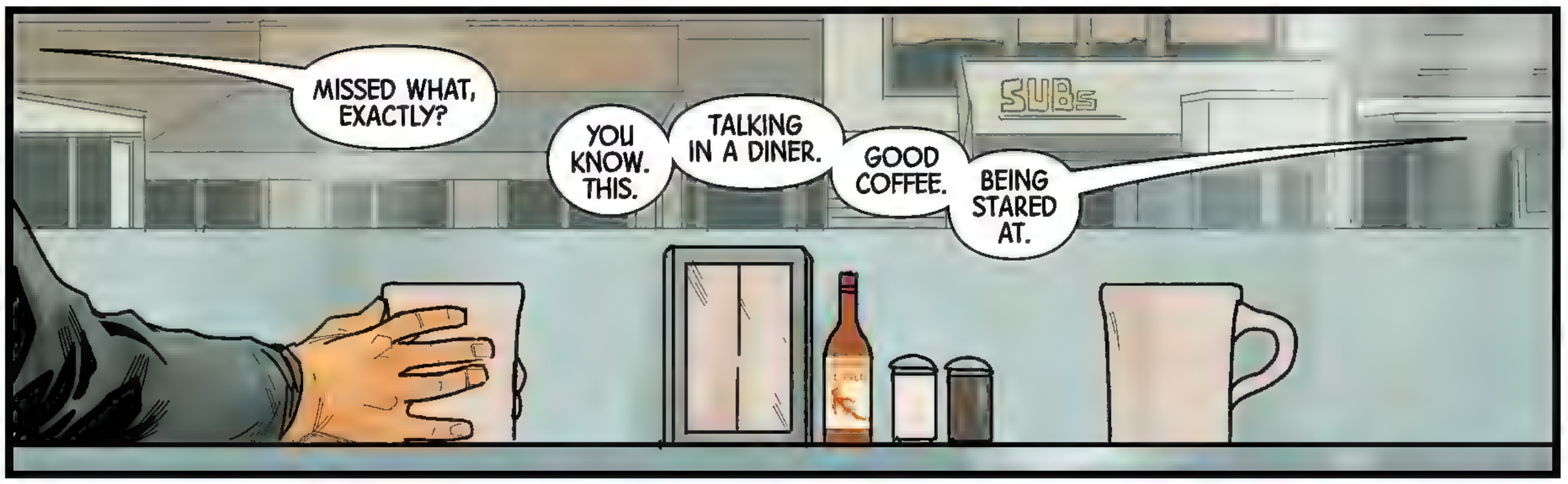
CRISIS.

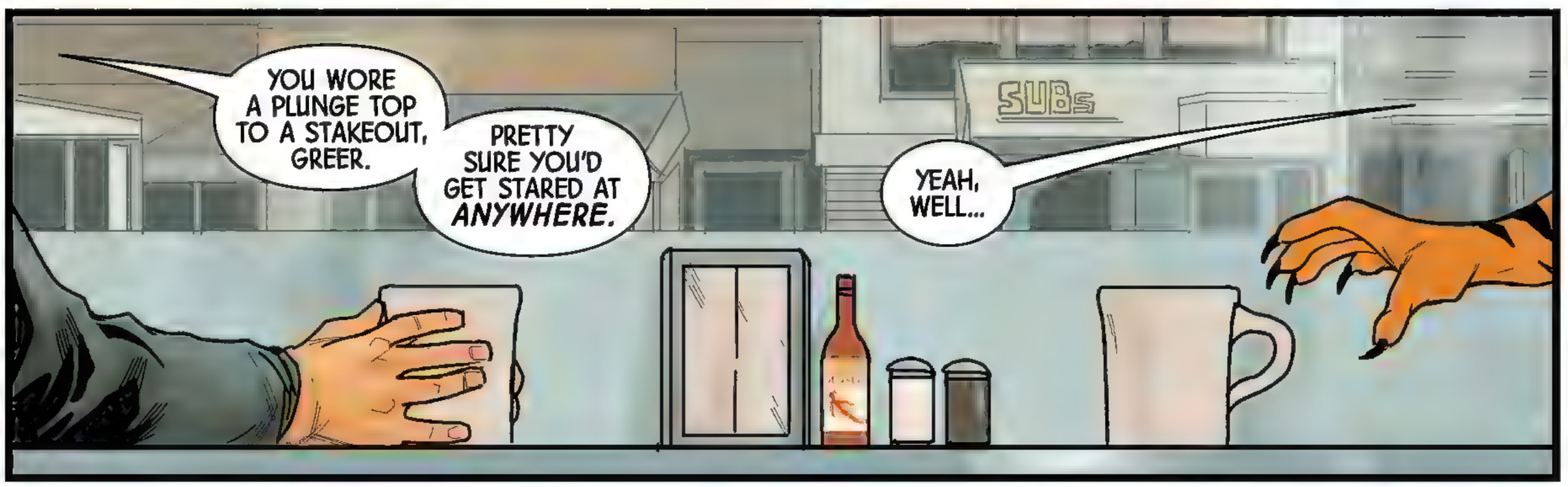
I'M HAVING A CRISIS.

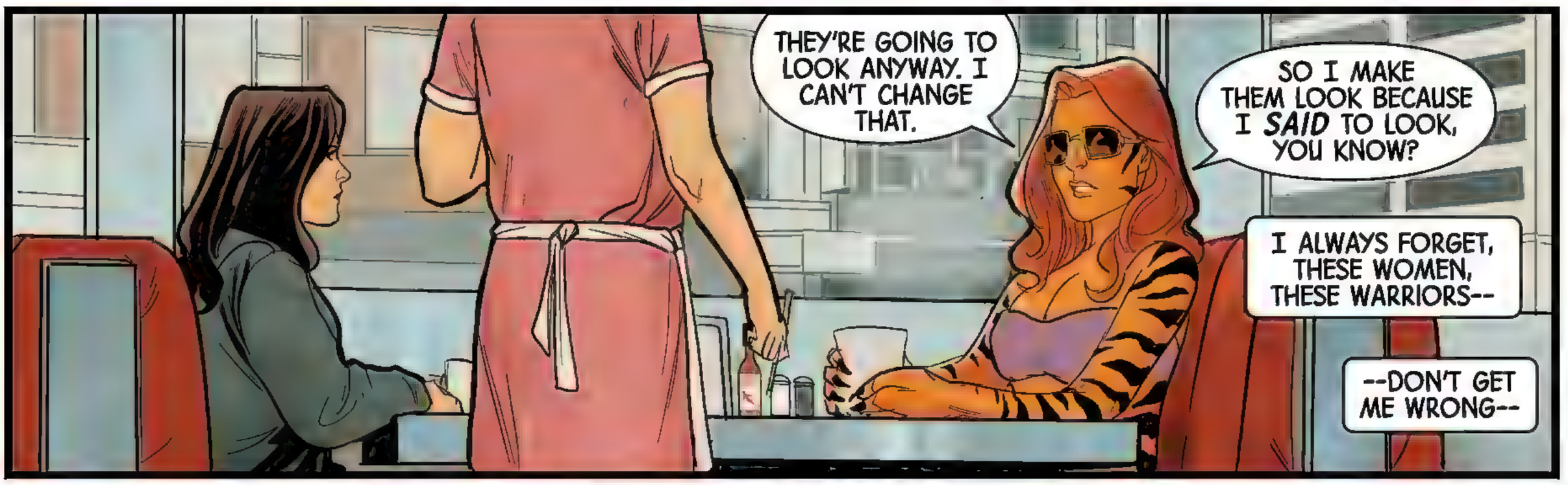
SWELL.

2

FOUR YEARS AGO.
CHEYENNE DINER
NOT GONNA LIE, JESS. I MISSED THIS.


MISSED WHAT, EXACTLY?
YOU KNOW. THIS.
TALKING IN A DINER.
GOOD COFFEE.
BEING STARED AT.
SUBs


YOU WORE A PLUNGE TOP TO A STAKEOUT, GREER.
PRETTY SURE YOU'D GET STARED AT *ANYWHERE.*
YEAH, WELL...
SUBs


THEY'RE GOING TO LOOK ANYWAY. I CAN'T CHANGE THAT.
SO I MAKE THEM LOOK BECAUSE I *SAID* TO LOOK, YOU KNOW?
I ALWAYS FORGET, THESE WOMEN, THESE WARRIORS--
--DON'T GET ME WRONG--

--THEY PUT SO MUCH PRESSURE ON THEMSELVES.
TO BE DANGEROUS *AND* GLAMOROUS.
HELP YOU LADIES?
EIGHT EGGS, PLEASE.
HOW YOU WANT THEM EGGS COOKED, DARLIN'?
DID I SAY ANYTHING ABOUT "COOKED"?

ME, I HAVE TWO JACKETS AND ONE'S GOT BLOODSTAINS ON IT.

SOMEONE'S ALWAYS *STARING* AT THEM, THE SHINY WOMEN.

THEY NEVER GET TO FORGET IT.

WELL, WE GOT OUR PEEPER, ANYWAY.

I REMEMBER ONCE, THE WASP CAUGHT A KID FALLING OFF A COLLAPSING ROOF.

PAPERS RAN A SHOT OF HER BUTT CRACK.

YEAH, I WAS GOING TO ASK ABOUT THAT.

GUY WAS CLEARLY SUPERHUMAN. YOU COULDA *SWUNG* ON OUR BOY.

"WORLD'S MIGHTIEST *MOON*," WAS THE CAPTION.

CAN'T DO IT. *WON'T* DO IT.

RIGHT.

I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT THIS, TIGRA.

STACK OF PANCAKES, BACON CRISP, PLEASE.

I'VE BEEN SEEN *ENOUGH.*

TOO *MUCH.*

NO FUR OFF *MY* NOSE, BABE.

BUT THAT HESITATION-- IT'S GONNA GET SOMEONE *HURT.*

LISTEN, IT'S BEEN FUN, MOONLIGHTING WITH YOU.

I LIKE IT, HONEST.

BUT I HAVE THIS OFFER-- THEY'D TAKE YOU TOO. I KNOW THEY WOULD.

SIEGFRIED AND ROY FINALLY CALL?

THAT WAS MEAN, JESS.

NO. THEY'RE NEW. THEY'RE CALLED *A-FORCE.*

GET THIS--ALL *GIRLS.*

COUPLE A-LISTERS TOO. *CAPTAIN MARVEL.*

A NEW TEAM WITH CAROL, AND SHE NEVER CALLED ME?

THAT ACTUALLY STINGS A BIT.

YOU COULD BE STRICTLY *NONCOMBAT,* JESSICA.

GET YOU OUT OF THAT CRAPPY *OFFICE.*

I *LIKE* MY CRAPPY OFFICE.

YOU AND ME, JESS.

NO MORE *PEEP-FREAKS.*

NO MORE GREASY *DIVORCE* CASES.

MAYBE SEE THE *STARS.*

GREER. TIGRA.

I HAVE ONE THING IN MY LIFE THAT'S RIGHT. THAT FITS.

I GET IT.

LUKE.

I HAVE LUKE.

LIKE I SAID, I GET IT. I'M HAPPY FOR YOU.

AND YOU'LL BE SAFE HERE.

"SAFE"? IN HELL'S KITCHEN?

YES, SAFE.

WHO'S GONNA HURT *YOU* HERE--THE DAMN STILT-MAN?

LISTEN.

THIS PLACE. THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT IN HUMAN WORDS. IT'S A FEELING AT THE TIP OF MY TAIL.

BUT THERE'S SOMETHING... SOMETHING *CONCEALED* ABOUT IT.

THINK ABOUT IT. WHEN *GALACTUS* OR *ULTRON* SHOWS UP, THEY NEVER COME *HERE.*

THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW THIS PLACE *EXISTS.*

IT'S LIKE A *BLIND* SPOT.

LIKE IT DOESN'T--

LIKE WE DON'T--

LIKE WE DON'T MATTER.

YES. LIKE WE DON'T MATTER.

BUT WE DO MATTER.

YOU MATTER.

WHAT I'M WORRIED IS...

...WITH THE BIG GUYS, THE SCARY GUYS?

DORMAMMU, DOOM, *THOSE* GUYS?

SOME DAY, SOME ROTTEN DAY--

--THIS PLACE'LL SHOW UP ON THEIR *RADAR.*

"AND *THAT* DAY, JESSICA JONES...

"...THAT DAY, THEY'LL BURN IT ALL *DOWN.*"

NOW.

I SEE WHAT YOU'RE THINKING, LADY.

STAND DOWN.

I *MEAN* IT.

WEIRD HOW THAT CONVERSATION WITH *TIGRA* FLASHED INTO MY BRAIN RIGHT NOW.

I KNOW WHY THOUGH.

I KNOW WHAT IT'S TRYING TO *TELL* ME.

REALLY? CAN YOU TELL WHAT I'M THINKING RIGHT *NOW?*

IT'S ABOUT WHERE YOU CAN *STICK* THAT SHIELD.

IT'S REMINDING ME.

OF THOSE EIGHT MONTHS I SPENT UNDER KILLGRAVE'S ABSOLUTE MIND CONTROL.

THE THINGS HE MADE ME DO.

THE PEOPLE HE MADE ME HURT.

WITH MY POWERS.

HE LOVED TO SEE ME *WRECK* PEOPLE.

"PLANET TERRY"

SO I DON'T LOVE HITTING FIRST. KNOWING I COULD...

...COULD CAUSE LIFE-CHANGING DAMAGE.

DAMAGE THEY NEVER RECOVER FROM.

BUT THIS IS MY *HOME.*

MOMMY...?

IRON FIST

OH GOD.

DANI.

SHE'S ONLY 3 AND A HALF.

SHE JUST STOPPED SLEEPING IN A *CRIB*, FOR CRISSAKES.

DAILY BUGLE

CAPTAIN MARVEL RETURNS TO MANHATTAN

AND SO FAR, EXCEPT FOR BRIEFLY TURNING *PURPLE* FOR A COUPLE SCARY DAYS, SHE'S LIKE ANY OTHER *KID*.

IMPRESSIONABLE.

FRAGILE.

BREAKABLE.

YEAH. I DON'T USUALLY HIT FIRST.

THEN AGAIN.

SOMETIMES I *DO.*

NEXT ONE, COPYCAT?

NEXT TIME YOU EVEN *LOOK* AT MY KID?

WE GO BALLS *OUT.*

ENOUGH. NO MORE *WARNINGS.*

YOU TWO SCARED MY *KID*, *"CAP."*

YOU'RE IN THE MOST DANGEROUS REAL ESTATE IN THE *WORLD*, YOU KNOW THAT?

WHAT, HELL'S KITCHEN?

NOT *SCARED*, LADY.

NO. NOT HELL'S KITCHEN.

I MEANT THE SMALL PATCH OF CARPET BETWEEN MY *HUSBAND* AND HIS *DAUGHTER.*

OH.

OH.

YEAH.

THAT'S *JUST* WHAT I WAS THINKING.

BEAUTIFUL.

ENDLESS.

THEY USED TO CALL HIM *POWER MAN.*

NOT GONNA LIE.

I'VE SHOUTED IT OUT A FEW TIMES IN THE DARK *MYSELF.*

MOMMY.

AT LEAST *SHE* KNOWS I'M ME.

WAS HAVING A LITTLE DOUBT ABOUT THAT FOR A SECOND.

JESS, WHAT THE *HELL?*

NO IDEA.

COME ON, WHILE THEY'RE OUT COLD.

OH.
OH NO.

NOT
NOW.

JESSICA...?

NOT
AGAIN.

TAKE...TAKE
DANI...

JESSICA.

JESS.

JESSICAA

NO.

WHAT THE
#$@%?!

NONO
NONONO

THE PURPLE MAN.

KILLGRAVE.

NO.

NO.

YOU. YOU'RE IN A COMA. YOU'RE *BRAIN-* DEAD.

I *SAW* YOU.

EIGHT *MONTHS.* EIGHT *MONTHS.*

HE CONTROLLED EVERY *MOVEMENT.*

YEAH?
YOUR DAUGHTER HATES YOUR GUTS.

TEN YEARS.
TEN YEARS SINCE HE TOOK ME.

SOMETHING OVETOUS. SOMETHING WANTING.

HAVE YOU SEEN ON MARIA?

AAURUUUUOOOFFF!
MOMMY!
MARIA.

MY PHONE.
LUKE.
GET MY PHONE.

TEN MINUTES LATER AND I...

...CAN'T STOP *SHAKING.*

THOSE WOMEN, WHOEVER THEY ARE...THEY *RABBITED.*

JESSICA, WHAT IS GOING ON?

WHO'S MARIA?

I CAN'T LOOK AT HIM. CAN'T BRING MY BAGGAGE INTO OUR *LIVES* AGAIN AND SEE HIS EYES AT THE SAME TIME.

SHE WAS KILLGRAVE'S PRACTICE RUN. SHE CLAIMED THAT--

--THAT HE LEFT SOME SORT OF *TIME* BOMB IN HER *BRAIN.*

YOU HAVE *ONE* NEW MESSAGE.

THERE. THERE'S THE LOOK THAT KILLS ME.

NOT THE ANGER. THE *DISAPPOINTMENT.*

WHY...WHY DIDN'T YOU *TELL* ME THIS, JESSICA?

BECAUSE I COULDN'T. BECAUSE I *COULDN'T.*

TELL YOU *WHAT,* LUKE?

THAT SHE *KILLED* HER FAMILY?

THAT I VISITED HER AFTER SHE FAILED HER *PSYCH EVAL?*

6:14

Matt Murdock
1 New Voicemail

JESSICA. IT'S MATT.

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO SAY THIS.

MARIA HUNG HERSELF IN HER HOLDING CELL. WE DON'T KNOW HOW YET.

SHE LEFT A NOTE FOR YOU. JUST TWO WORDS.

"HAPPY ANNIVERSARY."

"YOUR *FAMILY*," SHE SAID.

"STAY AWAY FROM YOUR *FAMILY*."

JESSICA.

WHAT IS *HAPPENING?*

YOU HAVE TO LEAVE, LUKE.

TAKE DANI. PACK A BAG AND GO.

NOW.

GO SOMEWHERE I DON'T KNOW. WHERE I CAN'T FIND YOU.

LUKE. IF YOU EVER LOVED ME. IF YOU LOVE ME *NOW.*

PLEASE.

JUST *GO.*

AND *BECAUSE* HE LOVES ME... *BECAUSE* HE'S LUKE...

HE DOES. NO QUESTIONS, NO ANGRY WORDS.

AND THAT HURTS LIKE I DIDN'T KNOW I COULD STILL *HURT.*

JEN?

I'M...

I'M IN TROUBLE.

JESSICA?

I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING YOU. I WAS WORRIED.

ARE YOU...ARE YOU OKAY?

JESSICA...?

MATT?

MATT?

MATT.

GOOD GOD IN *HEAVEN.*

THANK YOU, GOD. THANK YOU, LORD.

THEY SAID, THEY SAID DAREDEVIL WAS A *WOMAN* NOW.

I THOUGHT...I THOUGHT...

JESSICA, WHAT...?

SHUT UP.

DON'T-- DON'T *SAY* ANYTHING.

JUST LET ME BREATHE YOU *IN.*

JES--

SHHH.

HUSH.

I'VE MISSED YOU.

YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY *KNOW.*

WAIT. OKAY. *WAIT.*

STOP.

STOP, JESSICA!

WHAT BROUGHT *THIS* ON?

WE'RE NOT DOING THIS, OKAY?

WHAT ABOUT LUKE?

FOR GOD'S SAKE, WHAT ABOUT *YOU?*

...

GO AWAY.

GO AWAY BEFORE I HURT YOU.

JESSICA, LET ME *HELP--*

JESSICA.

OKAY, WE'RE DOING THIS.

READY?

NOT *REALLY.*

GO AHEAD.

4

SORRY. *SORRY.*

ANYTHING?

I DON'T KNOW.

I GUESS...?

OKAY.

THAT WAS *PRACTICE.*

TELL ME WHEN.

I'LL *TELL* YOU "*WHEN*," SMARTASS.

WHEN.

WE GOOD, SIS?

WE'RE GOOD.
YOU COULDA *PRETENDED* TO BE HURT.
OKAY, THEN.
THAT UPPERCUT STUNG A BIT, SORTA.
YOU'RE JUST TRYING TO MAKE ME *FEEL* BETTER.
WHAT'S WITH THE FF UNIFORM?
YOU SAID HURRY. I GRABBED SOMETHING THAT MIGHT *SCARE* A BAD GUY A LITTLE.
I DON'T KNOW.
WHAT'S GOING ON, JESS?
I NEED SOMEONE TO WATCH ME, JEN. MAKE SURE I DON'T *HURT* ANYONE, INCLUDING *MYSELF.*
SOMEONE I CAN'T JUST *PUNCH* AND WALK *AWAY.*
UH-HUH. AND HOW LONG?
TWENTY-FOUR HOURS.
THANK YOU.
BWOOM
WHAT THE HELL WAS *THAT?*
BOTH OF *US* HERE AND YOU PULL A *GUN?*
HOW *CUTE.*
WHOEVER'S IN MY DAUGHTER'S ROOM...I HAVE A *GUN.*
AND AN *AVENGER.*
THAT *TOO.*
WE'RE COMING *IN.*

OKAY. DON'T #@$%&$#@ *MOVE.*

WHO *ARE* YOU?

YOU, I THINK.

I THINK I'M *YOU.*

"THERE ARE OVER TWO HUNDRED SHADES HERE, MA'AM," SHE SAID.

"AND EACH ONE WILL MAKE YOU A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT *PERSON.*"

THE LAST TEN YEARS, MY BRAIN, THE CENTER OF MY *BEING*, HAS BEEN MY ENEMY.

FIRST FEARS, THEN ASSAULT, THEN MEMORY.

WE WERE JUST--

WE WERE JUST STARTING TO BE *FRIENDS* AGAIN.

THEN THIS.

I *CANT*

I *DONT* THINK I CAN TAKE

...

HELP ME

HELP

JESSICA.

JESSICA.

COME BACK.

ITS MAKING ME NOT WANT TO BE A SURVIVOR ANYMORE

JESS.

I'M CALLING AN AMBULANCE.

SCREW THAT, I'M CALLING THE FANTASTI-CAR.

GOSH.

IS SHE--?

GIRLY, I'M SAYING THIS ONCE.

BACK IT THE HELL UP.

I WASN'T GOING TO--

IS SHE...IS SHE OKAY?

ITS TALKING

WHY IS IT STILL TALKING

SHE *TOLD* ME WHAT YOU WANNABES *DID*, SLUGGER.

ATTACKED HER IN THIS SAME *ROOM*.

IN FRONT OF HER *KID*.

I DON'T... I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING *ON*.

MAYBE NOT.

BUT TAKE A STEP FORWARD, I'LL DAMN WELL *EDUCATE* YOU.

OH, HUSH.

GET HER SOME CAFFEINE. COFFEE, MAYBE. COLD, HOT, DOESN'T MATTER.

IF SHE'S GOT A SACK OF FROZEN PEAS, BRING THAT.

TURN THE LIGHTS OFF ON THE WAY OUT.

JESSICA, RIGHT?

YOU'RE HAVING A MIGRAINE, JESSICA.

YOU'RE SAFE.

THINK OF WHAT YOU WANT MOST IN THE WORLD, YOUR HAPPIEST THOUGHTS.

I'M GOING TO JUST STROKE YOUR HAIR-- GENTLY, OKAY?

DON'T.

STOP.

...

DON'T STOP.

WHERE I'M FROM, THE HULK IS A *FELLA.*

WE...WE HAVE ONE OF THOSE TOO.

AH.

HI, JESSICA. MY NAME IS--

I KNOW.

JEWEL.

I HAD THAT SAME ENSEMBLE.

DID YOU?

WELL, WE'RE PRACTICALLY *TWINS,* THEN.

LET ME HELP YOU TO THE BED.

USED TO RIDE UP THE CRACK OF MY ASS SOMETHING *AWFUL.*

PERFECT. THANKS. DRINK THIS, JESS.

JESS, WHAT THE HELL?

YOU SAID THESE "VARIANTS" *ATTACKED* YOU.

WELL. I--

UH.

"--I MIGHT HAVE ATTACKED THEM A LITTLE BIT FIRST."

SOMETHING WRONG WITH THE COFFEE?

JUST...IT'S THE FIRST CUP I'VE HAD IN SIXTY-THREE DAYS, SEVEN HOURS.

ANOTHER PROMISE BROKEN, I GUESS.

YOU ATTACKED *THEM?*

YOU *KNOW* YOU CAUSED SMASHUS INTERRUPTUS, RIGHT?

I KNOW. I *KNOW.*

OKAY. SO YOU SHOT WITHOUT THINKING.

HOW DO YOU MAKE THIS RIGHT?

FIRST, I FIND THEM. MAYBE WE GET THEM TO DOCTOR STRANGE OR SOMETHING. I DON'T KNOW.

BUT WE HAVE TO *FIND* THEM FIRST.

HELLO, JESSICA.

I'M SURPRISED YOU'D CALL ME AFTER WHAT HAPPENED.

WAIT. WHAT HAPPENED?

YOU DON'T *REMEMBER?*

"YOU *KISSED* ME, JESSICA. NOT THE 'HEY, HOW YOU *DOING'* KIND.

"AND LOOK, I'M *FLATTERED,* BUT--"

OH, LORD.

MA--

DAREDEVIL.

THAT WASN'T *ME.*

BUT I NEED YOU TO *FIND* WHO IT *WAS.*

SHE LOOKS LIKE *ME,* DANNY.

BUT SHE'S DRESSED IN *CAP'S* COLORS, UNDERSTAND? AND SHE CAN *FIGHT.*

IT'S OKAY, JESS. I'LL LOOK.

DO YOU WANT *DANNY RAND* TO GO...

...OR DO WE SEND THE *IRON FIST?*

GOOD QUESTION.

I GUESS WE SEND WHICHEVER ONE LOVES HIS GODDAUGHTER THE MOST.

...

I'M ON IT. ANY THOUGHTS WHERE TO START?

YEAH.

MAYBE.

I HAVE A GUESS, ANYWAY.

AND DANNY?

TRY TO BE KIND, OKAY?

WAIT. YOU HAVE A KID?

HOW *OLD* ARE YOU?

JESSICA, WHAT'S THE PLAN HERE? 'CAUSE IT *FEELS* LIKE WE'RE HEADED INTO ONE OF THOSE MATTER/ ANTIMATTER THINGS WHERE THE MULTIVERSE *EXPLODES* AND WHATNOT.

PROBABLY, JEN.

LISTEN, I'VE BEEN DOING SOME MATH. THESE HEADACHES, THEY'RE ESCALATING.

AND I *THINK* I GET ONE EVERY TIME A *VARIANT* SHOWS UP.

OKAY, AND...?

WE'VE MET *THREE* VARIANTS.

"BUT I'VE HAD *FOUR* HEADACHES."

YOU.

YOU'RE NOT MY MATT, ARE YOU?

NO.

NO, MISS. I'M SORRY.

TRULY.

AND I--

--I DON'T BELONG HERE, DO I?

I KNOW YOU'RE WATCHING ME, WHOEVER YOU ARE.

ARE WE GOING TO HAVE A PROBLEM?

I HOPE NOT.

NO. WE'RE NOT GOING TO HAVE A PROBLEM.

WE HAD A MANSION LIKE THIS.

OUR AVENGERS DID, I MEAN.

THEN IT ALL JUST...

...WENT TO @&$% SOMEHOW.

MAN, WHEN YOU FALL OFF THE COFFEE WAGON, YOU FALL WITH A VENGEANCE, JESS.

OKAY, DANNY. THANK YOU.

MATT'S ALREADY GOING TO THE RENDEZVOUS. BE THERE IN FIFTEEN.

ALL RIGHT. WE'RE HAVING A MEETUP. LET'S GO.

WAIT!

DON'T YOU WANT TO--SPRUCE UP A BIT?

PUT YOUR FACE ON? BRUSH YOUR HAIR?

AH. SHE'S ONE OF THE *SHINY* GIRLS.

LIKE *BRININA.*

I'M SURE SHE MEANS WELL.

LISTEN, JEWEL. SINCE KILLGRAVE...

...I DON'T REALLY *CARE* WHAT PEOPLE THINK.

OH.

OKAY.

WHAT'S A KILLGRAVE?

SHE DOESN'T...

SHE'S NEVER...

OH!

OKAY.

JUST.

LET ME HOLD YOU FOR A SECOND.

DON'T *TALK.*

SHE'S ME. OR AS NEAR AS, DAMMIT.

AND SHE'S NEVER HEARD OF THE PURPLE MAN.

OKAY. ONE PROMISE.

OKAY.

NO TALKING.

I'M GETTING THIS ONE HOME *SAFE.*

STOP LOOKING AT ME.

C'MON.

WHERE ARE WE *GOING?*

"WHERE ELSE?

"TO GET MORE *COFFEE.*"

SSS

STOMPING GROUNDS

THOUGHT YOU WAS REAL *SMART,* DIDN'T YOU, RIO?

DIDN'T WANT TO PAY A *PERFECTLY FAIR* AMOUNT OF PROTECTION NO MORE, RIGHT?

SO YOU WENT AN' HIRED THAT *BUTCH* DAME TO SCARE MY BOYS.

BREAK MY *LEG,* EVEN!

SNACKS

MUFFINS....3.50

HOT

DRIP COFFEE....2.29
DOUBLE ESPRESSO....2.79
CAPPUCCINO....3.49
LATTE....3.79
MACCHIATO....4.49
HOT TEA....3.50

EXTRAS

COCONUT MILK...50
WHIPPED CREAM...25
FLAVOR SHOT....50
SOY MILK....50
ESPRESSO SHOT...1.25

MORE

ONLY, SEE, *NOBODY* WELCHES ON *HAMMERHEAD.*

BUT YOU *AREN'T* MR. HAMM--

STOW THAT TALK, BEAN JOCKEY!

'CAUSE I BROUGHT A LITTLE MUSCLE OF MY *OWN.*

MEET *BRUTO.* THE *STRONGMAN.*

FROM THE *CIRCUS OF CRIME,* LITTLE MAN.

GEEZ.

THEM *DANISH* LOOK REAL GOOD, BOSS.

FORGET THE *PASTRY,* YOU *CHUMP.*

BASH SOME *HEADS.*

REMIND THESE MOPES WHO *RUNS* THIS BLOCK!

YEAH.

ABOUT THAT...

...I'M JUST ASKING.

WHO RUNS THIS BLOCK AGAIN?

I BELIEVE YOU ALREADY *MET* ONE OF MY COLLEAGUES HERE?

YOU RUN THIS BLOCK.

WE DON'T EVEN *LIVE* HERE!

DS

PATHETIC.

CAN I HAVE THEM DANISH, PLEASE?

AND THEM *COOKIES* TOO, THANKS.

OKAY. THIS IS AWKWARD, BUT...WHAT DO WE *CALL* EACH OTHER?

CAP AND JEWEL, THOSE ARE EASY, BUT--

IT'S OKAY, JESSICA. IT'S YOUR REALITY, LOOKS LIKE.

YOU CAN BE PRIME.

MY CALL SIGN AT *S.W.O.R.D.* WAS *OMEGA.*

OR CALL ME GROUCH GIRL.

DOESN'T MATTER. WHO CARES?

MATT TOLD ME, OMEGA.

THAT YOU WERE MARRIED TO YOUR DAREDEVIL.

I'M SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS.

IT WAS STILT-WOMAN. CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?

FRICKING *STILT-WOMAN.*

ULTRON.

CONDORMAN.

I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT THIS.

CAN THIS REALLY BE?

I'M SO, SO SORRY.

CAN I ACTUALLY BE IN A GROUP...

...WHERE *MY* SCREWED-UP LIFE IS THE *LUCKY* ONE?

THAT'S... THAT'S A LOT OF GRIEF FOR ONE LITTLE TABLE.

WE OUGHT TO CALL OURSELVES THE BLACK *WIDOWS.*

I'M AFRAID SOMEONE'S PARKED IN THAT SPOT *ALREADY,* JEWEL.

BUT I LIKE THE IDEA. WE'RE ALMOST SISTERS, RIGHT?

RIO! CHECK, PLEASE.

IT *IS* WEIRD, RIGHT?

THAT WE *ALL* LOST OUR LOVES LIKE THAT.

TO *VIOLENCE.*

EXCEPT THAT'S NOT ENTIRELY *TRUE*, PEP RALLY.

OUR *HOST* STILL HAS HER WARM BED.

KID TOO.

LUCKY *HER*.

SPEAKING OF WHICH, WHERE *IS* THE BIG MAN?

HE'S SAFE. I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE.

BUT HE'S SAFE.

YOU SENT HIM INTO HIDING?

BECAUSE OF *US*?

NO.

IT WAS SOMETHING *ELSE*.

I'M GOING TO THE LOBBY FOR A MINUTE, JUST TO GRAB SOME AIR. YOU TWO OKAY?

GO. BREATHE. WE GOT THIS, LUCAS.

AUNT MISTY TRIED TO PLAY A *FIRE* TYPE ON A *CLOUD* FACTION!

SHE LEFT HER *BRAIN* IN THE *CATBOX!*

NOW, I WONDER WHO TAUGHT HER *THAT* COLORFUL PHRASE?

WE GOING HOME SOON, DADDY? I MISS *MOMMY.*

ME TOO, DANI.

SOON.

OKAY.

TEN YEARS AGO, I WAS... TAKEN. BY A MAN NAMED *KILLGRAVE.*

MIND CONTROL.

WORSE THAN I CAN EXPLAIN.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO EXPLAIN, PRIME.

US *TOO.*

NICE HALLWAY.

SEVEN HUNDRED DOLLARS A *NIGHT* AND NO *SUPER HERO* DISCOUNT.

DAMN WELL *OUGHTA* BE.

"BUT I WASN'T THE FIRST. HE HAD A TRIAL RUN--A WOMAN NAMED MARIA SNYDER.

"SHE TOLD ME HE SET HER FREE, BUT FIRST, HE LAID A *TRAP* IN HER BRAIN.

"SHE KILLED HER OWN FAMILY. TEN YEARS TO THE *DAY* OF BEING LET GO."

KILLED HERSELF A FEW HOURS AGO, IN HER PRISON CELL.

AND SO YOU THINK...

I THINK, THIRTY FIVE MINUTES AGO, IT BECAME TEN YEARS SINCE HE LET *ME* LOOSE.

AND I JUST MIGHT BE THE MOST DANGEROUS THING IN THE WORLD TO MY *OWN* FAMILY.

EVENIN'.

EVENIN'.

ASK YOU SOMETHIN'.

YOUR NAME JESS, JEFF... SOMETHIN' LIKE THAT, MAYBE?

JESSE.

OKAY, JESSE.

WE GONNA LET THE LITTLE OLD WHITE LADY GET OUT FIRST?

OKAY.

HATE TO MESS UP THIS NICE OL' ELEVATOR THOUGH.

BRING IT.

BAM

GUHH.

POW

GNN.

STRONG. SO YOU'RE ***STRONG***, IS THAT IT?

SHOW ME, LITTLE MAN.

WHACK!

HNNFFF.

KRAKOOM

DRIP COFFEE.....2.29
DOUBLE ESPRESSO.....2.79
CAPPUCCINO.....3.49
LATTE.....
MACCHIATO.....
HOT TEA.....
COFFEE.....2.50
TE.....3.50
.....3.49
A.....4.00
.....3.00
.....4.00
COCONUT
WHIPPED
FLAVOR SI
SOY MILK
ESPRESSO
SMOKE
DE.....
TE..3.29
...2.89

OH, JESSICA. THAT'S--THAT'S AWFUL.

SO THAT'S WHY YOU HAD THE BIG ***GREEN*** GIRL--

YEAH. SHE'S MAKING SURE I DON'T KILL MY OWN HUSBAND AND DAUGHTER.

BUT SHE-HULK DOESN'T UNDERSTAND. SHE CAN'T *KNOW* WHAT KILLGRAVE DOES TO YOUR...YOUR *WIRING.*

SO I NEED YOU ALL TO PROMISE. IF I GO OVER, YOU'LL STOP ME.

EVEN IF THAT MEANS *STOP* STOP ME.

ICED COFFEE 2.50
ICED LATTE 3.50
COLD BREW
ICED MOCHA
ICED CHAI 3.00
NITRO
LEMONADE
ICED TEA
SMOOTHIE
HOT CHOCOLA
SODA

UNDERSTOOD, JESSICA.

I DON'T LIKE YOU, PRIME. I DON'T LIKE WHO YOU ARE, I DON'T LIKE WHAT YOU STILL HAVE.

BUT IF NECESSARY, I PROMISE--

"--I'LL TAKE YOU OUT *MYSELF.*"

DAMMIT.

LET ME *BEAT* ON YOU FOR A DAMN SECOND!

HAVE A NICE EVENING, LADIES. NO HURRY ON THE BILL.

THANKS.

I GOT THIS, LADIES.

EVERYTHING OKAY, JESSICA?

...

YEAH. JUST...

...IT'S JUST KIND OF A *LOT.*

Stomping Grounds
CHK 20185
4 coffees 20.00
1 croiss 4.69
Total $24.69

DON'T TRUST THEM

I DON'T WANT TO DO THIS.
IT'S NOT ME, MAN.
I'M JUST THE *BULLET.*
YEAH?
WELL.
HOW SAD FOR *YOU,* FRIEND.
BECAUSE *LUKE CAGE?*
IS DAMN *BULLETPROOF.*

OH.

ALL RIGHT, LISTEN. WE'RE GONNA GET YOU TO A HOSPITAL. FIX YOU--FIX YOU UP.

NO.

BETTER THIS WAY.

LUKE.

REALLY WERE FRIENDS. SOMEWHERE.

IT'S COMING, LUKE.

COMING FOR HER

IT'S COMING FOR YOUR DAUGHTER

SORRY

SORR--

NO.

DANI.

DAANNNNIIII!

THE VARIANTS

MARVEL

$3.99
4
SEP

APPROVED BY THE BREVOORT CODE
AUTHORITY

VARIANTS ASSEMBLE!

I THOUGHT OF THEM AS DUPLICATES. BUT THAT'S WRONG.

I THOUGHT THEY'D BE JUST...MORE OF *ME, SOMEHOW.*

BUT THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL.

THEY'RE MORE... DIVERGENT, I GUESS?

THEY'RE WHO I *COULD* HAVE BEEN.

FREAKING *CAP* HERE ACTUALLY LEADS HER WORLD'S *AVENGERS.*

PRIME, YOU OKAY?

AND *THIS* ONE, *JEWEL.*

SHE NEVER MET KILLGRAVE. NEVER HAD HER SPIRIT *FLAYED.*

KINDNESS RADIATES OFF HER.

AND IT BREAKS MY HEART A LITTLE.

SHE'S RIGHT, JESSICA. YOU LOOK SHOOK, SWEETIE.

AND THEN THERE'S *OMEGA.*

SHE DOESN'T LIKE ME. SHE DOESN'T *WANT* TO LIKE ME.

I KNOW HER. I *WAS* HER.

FOR A LONG, LONG TIME.

FOR CRIPES' SAKE. ARE WE HER AFFIRMATION CIRCLE NOW?

HERE. SINCE YOU'RE ALL FEELING *SO BAD* FOR THE ONLY ONE OF US WHO STILL HAS A *FAMILY*...

...LET'S SEE EXACTLY WHO IT *IS* WE'RE WEEPING FOR, OKAY?

"PRIME." YOU GOT A PICTURE OF YOUR FAMILY ON YOU?

YEAH. OF COURSE I DO. WHY?

GIVE IT. I JUST NEED IT FOR A SECOND.

DON'T LIKE WHERE *THIS* IS GOING.

TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT YOUR BLISS, SIS.

REALLY DRINK IT *IN.*

GNNAAAAAA!

OH.

OH NO.

WHAT?

WHAT DID I JUST--?

MMFF.

GONNA THROW *UP.*

JESSICA.

LET HER GO, JEWEL.

GIVE HER ROOM.

THAT WAS *MEAN.*

WAS IT?

BETTER SHE KNOWS *NOW,* I SHOULD THINK.

BETTER A *PHOTO* THAN HER *FAMILY.*

OHMY GODOHMY GOD.

DON'T MOVE. DON'T TALK.

I KNOW WHAT THIS IS. I KNOW WHAT I'M HAVING.

BUT I CAN'T STOP IT. CAN'T EVEN SLOW IT DOWN.

IT'S A BONE-DEEP, FULL-ON *PANIC ATTACK.*

GET *OFF ME.*

YOU PICKED A *BAD DAY.*

NO.

YOU PICKED THE *WORST DAY!*

I NEED CONTROL. I NEED TO CALM DOWN.

BUT YOU KNOW WHAT?

MAYBE I JUST DON'T *FEEL* LIKE IT AT THE MOMENT.

DAMMIT, JESSICA, GET A GRIP.

I'M TRYING TO SAVE YOU, YOU COMPLETE D-BAG!

WAIT. YOU'RE ONE OF THEM. YOU'RE ME.

KNIGHTRESS.

YEAH, YEAH. I'M YOU WITHOUT ALL THE POINTLESS RAGE.

HELP ME UP, J-HULK.

DIDN'T YOU GET MY NOTE?

"I WAS DRESSED AS A WAITRESS? I STAND BY THAT MESSAGE, BY THE WAY."

CHK 20185

4 coffees 20.00
1 Croiss 4.69

Total $ 4.69

DON'T TRUST THEM

I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING.

BELIEVE ME, THAT'S PAINFULLY OBVIOUS.

YOUR HUBS WAS A NEW AVENGER, RIGHT?

WE NEED TO CALL HIM. NOW.

I SENT HIM INTO HIDING. TO KEEP THEM SAFE.

SUPER NOBLE, I'M SURE. BUT HE'S GOT SOMETHING WE NEED.

AND WHAT IS THAT, EXACTLY?

WOLVERINE ON SPEED DIAL.

NOW BE A PAL AND HAND ME SOME PAPER TOWELS, FOR GOD'S SAKE. I'VE GOT TOILET HEAD.

Lucas Cage (616)

OKAY, TEAM OF FREAKS?

MEET *KNIGHTRESS.*

KNIGHTRESS? TEAM OF FREAKS.

ENOUGH COFFEE.

WE'RE OUT OF HERE, LADIES.

JESSICA, WHAT'S HAPPENING?

WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A *SEANCE.*

AND WE'RE GONNA MESS SOMEONE ALL THE WAY *UP.*

WHO'S *IN?*

RISKY DOING THIS AT HOME... BUT WE CAN'T BE INTERRUPTED.

PLEASE LET HER BE TELLING THE *TRUTH.*

WHY ARE WE ON YOUR ROOF, JESSICA? WOULDN'T YOU BE MORE COMFORTABLE INSIDE?

THERE'S FIVE ANGRY *MEs* IN THIS EQUATION, AND YOU ALREADY BLEW OUT MY DAUGHTER'S BEDROOM WALL, JEWEL.

LET'S PRETEND WE'RE CAMPING.

YOU *SURE* ABOUT THIS?

NO, JESSICA.

NOT EVEN REMOTELY.

OKAY.

HOW DO WE *DO* IT, THEN?

YOU KNOW HOW.

YOU'VE FOUGHT HIS MEMORY EVERY DAY FOR TEN YEARS.

STOP FIGHTING.

INVITE HIM *IN*, JESSICA.

ALL RIGHT. HEY, YOU MISERABLE PURPLE BASTARD...

WELCOME *HOME.*

I BROUGHT YOU A PILLOW FROM YOUR BEDROOM, JESSICA.

WE GOT YOU.

DANI IS GONNA BE FINE, OKAY?

...

THANK YOU, JEWEL. JUST--

--THANK YOU.

I'M SCARED. I SAID IT, ALL RIGHT?

I'M SCARED.

MIGHTY *CONVENIENT* THAT A PLAYER WE DON'T *KNOW* SHOWS UP WITH A PLAN *TONIGHT.*

LOOK, "OMEGA." IF WE DON'T KILL EACH OTHER, WE CAN BOUNCE ACCUSATIONS ALL *OVER* THE PLACE, ALL RIGHT?

AFTER THE EXORCISM.

WELL, I DON'T LIKE *THAT* WORDING.

STAND *DOWN,* SOLDIERS.

WE AGREED TO HELP.

FORM A PERIMETER, FACING OUT. YOU HEARD WHAT HER HUSBAND SAID.

THERE COULD BE *MORE* OUT THERE.

YOU'RE RIGHT.

TAKE CARE, PRIME. YOU CAN *DO* THIS.

TRY TO THINK OF SOMETHING THAT MAKES YOU *STRONG.*

YEAH.

I GOT THE POWER.

THEY'RE SCARED TOO.

BECAUSE OF WHAT *LUKE* SAID FIFTEEN MINUTES AGO.

YEAH. A GUY VERSION OF *YOU*, JESS.

HE *FOUND* US SOMEHOW.

I SORTA PUSHED HIM OUT THE WINDOW.

THEN HE CAUGHT *FIRE*.

IS SHE--?

DANI'S OKAY. SHE'S OKAY.

SHE ALSO HAD A COUPLE ANGELS ON HER SHOULDER.

JESS? STILL THERE?

...

I WAS AFRAID YOU DIDN'T BELIEVE ME.

BABY.

I ALWAYS BELIEVE YOU.

DON'T YOU KNOW THAT BY NOW?

I DO. IT'S JUST...

I JUST FEEL LUCKY, SOMETIMES. I MARRIED INTO MAGIC.

I NEED YOU TO FIND A DARKER HOLE, IF YOU CAN.

IT'S OKAY, JESS.

I HAVE A *RIDE*.

AND NOW ANYONE COULD BE OUT THERE, WORSE VERSIONS OF ME.

AND I'M NOT AT ALL SURE IT'S *ANGELS* LOOKING OUT FOR ME THIS TIME.

I'M HERE, KILLGRAVE.

LET'S *CHAT.*

DAMMIT.

THAT SAME CREEPING *FEAR* UP MY *SPINE.*

AW, DON'T BE CROSS. LET'S NOT BE CROSS.

GET OFF ME. GET *OFF.*

THAT *LOATHSOME* SACK OF *SNAILS* AND RAW *MEAT.*

NOW, NOW, HONEY, SWEET.

YOU CALLED *ME.* REMEMBER?

WHY PLAY HARD TO GET *NOW?*

DON'T SHOW HIM, JESSICA.

DON'T SHOW THAT YOU'RE FULL *UP* ON TERROR.

YOU PUT A TIME BOMB IN ME.

LIKE THE ONE YOU PUT IN MARIA SNYDER.

BEFORE SHE *KILLED* HERSELF IN HER CRAPPY JAIL CELL.

OLD NEWS. BY THE WAY, WHAT WAS THAT, TWO DAYS AGO?

I'D RATHER TALK ABOUT US.

STILL HAVEN'T FOUND YOUR BABY WEIGHT, I SEE.

YOU WANT ME TO KILL MY OWN FAMILY.

WHY?

YOU ALREADY *TOOK* EVERYTHING FROM ME.

RIGHT AFTER ALL THIS TIME ALL THE *INTIMACY*.

YOU STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND ME AT ALL, DO YOU?

DO YOU KNOW WHY I CHOSE YOU?

WAS I KEPT ALIVE, YOU WORTHLESS LITTLE ACCIDENT?

WAIT

WHY I SAY YOU COULD SMILE?

WHY ARE YOU *SMILING*, FILTH?

BECAUSE I CALLED A FRIEND OF A FRIEND, KILLGRAVE. ON THE LONG-DISTANCE LINE FROM *KRAKOA*.

AND X MARKS THE DAMN *SPOT.*

GAAAAHHH!

HELLO, ZEBEDIAH. MY NAME IS CHARLES XAVIER.

I'M AFRAID THIS IS GOING TO *STING* A BIT.

THE WAY HE *FLINCHED* JUST NOW.

I COULD BOTTLE THAT AND DRINK IT LIKE *SODA.*

BECAUSE IT REMINDS ME, KILLGRAVE.

FOR STRENGTH, FOR WHAT'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN... IT *REMINDS* ME.

THAT AT YOUR HEART, AT YOUR VERY *CORE*...

...YOU ARE NOTHING BUT A DAMP LITTLE *COWARD.*

YOU... YOU SET A TRAP FOR ME?

YOU INSIGNIFICANT TRAMPOLINE

YOU DISOBEDIENT FUNGUS

I'LL MAKE YOU SUFFER AS NO ONE ELSE HAS!

I DON'T THINK SO, MR. KILLGRAVE.

NOW BEHAVE.

NO. NO. WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

YOU CAN'T—

GAHHH

OH, DO BE QUIET, WON'T YOU?

GUHHHH

STOP.

NO, DON'T.

MERCY!

"MERCY"?

I CAN SEE JESSICA'S MEMORIES, ZEBEDIAH.

I DON'T THINK MERCY IS QUITE IN *ORDER*, DO YOU?

KRAK

AARRGHHHH!

AND I MUST SAY, THE *DECOR* IN HERE IS UNPRODUCTIVE TO A HEALING ENVIRONMENT.

DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE FLOWER, JESSICA?

ROSES.

PINK ROSES. MORNING *BLUSH.*

AS GIRLY AS YOU CAN *MAKE* THEM.

PINK ROSES IT SHALL BE, THEN.

NO, NOOOOOO!

EVERY VICTIM'S DREAM.

TO SEE THEIR ABUSER *CRAWL.*

I COULD GET *USED* TO IT, I WON'T LIE.

WHAT WAS IT YOU WERE GOING TO SAY, KILLGRAVE?

WHY *ME?*

BECAUSE YOU WERE STRONG.

TRY AGAIN, CALIFORNIA RAISIN.

AHHNNN.

BECAUSE YOU WERE HAPPY ALL RIGHT?

BECAUSE YOU WERE HAPPY.

AND YOU COULDN'T STAND THAT.

...

YOU'RE PATHETIC.

THROW HIM OUT OF MY BRAIN, PROFESSOR. *BURN* HIM OUT, IF NECESSARY.

WE WE COULD HAVE BEEN BROTHERS GODS.

JOIN ME W[illegible] EVERYTHING.

NO.

I HAVE THREE QUESTIONS FOR YOU, MR. KILLGRAVE.

ANSWER THEM TRUTHFULLY.

MS. JONES-CAGE.

I DON'T THINK YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE.

WHAT WAS THE NAME OF YOUR FIRST PET?

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE NOVEL AT AGE 15?

WHO WAS YOUR FIRST HIGH SCHOOL CRUSH?

QUICKLY NOW.

PETEY

PLANET PETEY

PETER AND POTATOES

PETER PARKER

DAMN YOU

WHOSE ANSWERS ARE THOSE, JESSICA?

MINE.

THOSE ARE *MY* ANSWERS.

HOW...?

THE "TIME BOMB" IS REAL, JESSICA. HE PLANTED IT TEN YEARS AGO.

BUT THERE IS NO PART OF HIM IN YOUR MIND, NOT EVEN AN ELECTRON'S WORTH.

HE ISN'T DOING ANY OF THIS.

HE'S TOLD *YOU* TO PULL THAT TRIGGER.

MY GOD. I WOULD HAVE...

LUKE AND *DANI.*

WHAT DO I *DO?*

I'M AFRAID THAT'S THE DIFFICULT PART.

YOU HAVE TO *FORGIVE* HIM.

NO.

ANYTHING ELSE.

YOU MUST UNDERSTAND, JESSICA. HE ISN'T ME.

EVEN IF HE WEREN'T IN A *COMA* IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD, HE HAS NO *CONNECTION* TO YOU, BUT THIS.

HE WILL NEVER *HEAR* YOUR FORGIVENESS.

HE ONLY KNOWS WHAT *YOU* KNOW, ONLY SUSPECTS WHAT *YOU* DO.

BECAUSE HE *IS* YOU, JESSICA.

FORGIVE HIM, FORGIVE *YOURSELF.*

AND WALK AWAY IN *PEACE.*

NEVER.

WAKE ME UP, CHARLES.

LET ME GO *HOME.*

MOISTURE ON MY FACE.

AM I CRYING?

NO. IT'S STARTED RAINING. AND MY MIND IS *CLEAR*, THANK GOD.

NO MORE TEARS. NO MORE *HIDING.*

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED, SOLDIER?

FIXIN' TO BE, CAP.

THE VARIANT. SHE CALLED MY DAUGHTER OUT BY *NAME.*

I NEVER *SAID* HER NAME.

SHE BROKE IN. THE OTHERS TOOK THE DOOR.

SHE BROKE RIGHT INTO DANI'S *BEDROOM.*

JEWEL.

DID YOU COME HERE TO STEAL MY DAUGHTER?

BUSTED.

YOU MAD?

JEWEL.

I THOUGHT YOU WERE THE BEST OF ME.

BAM

MAD?

I'M &$%#@ FURIOUS.

HOW DID YOU *DO* IT? THE VARIANTS...

HOW DID YOU--?

YOU KNOW WHAT?

I DON'T *CARE.*

ENOUGH.

ENOUGH PLAYING.

WHY DO YOU MAKE ME DO THIS?

I DON'T EVEN LIKE FIGHTING.

SO... YOU MAKE... OTHERS...DO YOUR KILLING?

YES. BUT NOT THIS TIME.

NOT THIS TIME.

GUHHN!

SCHUK KUNG!

I'M AFRAID WE CAN'T ALLOW THAT, LADY.

YOU OWE US SOME ANSWERS.

STAND DOWN.

OR YOU COULD RESIST.

BY ALL MEANS, RESIST.

OKAY.

MAYBE BEING PART OF A TEAM ISN'T THE WORST THING EVER.

OH MY.

WELL, JESSICA.

I'M AFRAID THIS IS GOING TO HURT.

UH-OH.

OH GOD. THE MIGRAINE. IT'S BACK.

A HUNDRED TIMES WORSE.

THIS IS *YOUR* FAULT, JESSICA.

FOR BEING SO *SELFISH.*

VARIANTS?

ASSEMBLE.

5

THE MIGRAINES.

THEY HAPPEN EVERY... EVERY TIME A *VARIANT* COMES HERE.

TO *MY* WORLD.

AND OH HELL. THIS IS THE WORST ONE.

JESSICA. *JESSICA.*

I'M GONNA NEED YOU TO STAND UP, SOLDIER.

NOT GONNA LIE.

THE ODDS AREN'T *GOOD.*

YEAH.

WHEN ARE THEY *EVER?*

WORK, LEGS. STAND *UP.* DON'T YOU DARE *TREMBLE* UNDER ME.

THESE "VARIANTS," AT LEAST, *SEEM* TO BE ON *MY* TEAM.

WE PLAY THE CARDS WE'RE DEALT.

YOUR WORLD OR *ANY* WORLD...

...THAT'S ALL YOU GET.

I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING HER.

SHE'S LEFT A TRAIL OF *GRIEF* ALL OVER THE MULTIVERSE.

NEVER SAW HER FACE-TO-FACE UNTIL NOW.

GRIEF.

THE VARIANTS

FACE FRONT, TRUE BELIEVER...

IT'S THE BATTLE YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR:

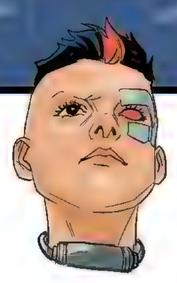
JESSICA PRIME

CAPTAIN JESSICA

OMEGA

KNIGHTRESS

REVISION


JESSICA 2099

ULTRA-JESS

ALIAS JESSI JAMES

JEWEL

MOURNING BLUSH

SIGIL

POWER-WOMAN

THE VARIANTS

LIKED ME SO MUCH YOU BROUGHT A PLATOON.

I SAID "*LIKED.*"

I DIDN'T SAY "*TRUSTED.*"

PRIME.

EITHER *LEAD THE CHARGE* OR GET OUT OF THE *WAY.*

WHAT?

NO, DAMMIT.

WHAT DO YOU THINK THIS *IS*, THE CONTEST OF CHAMPIONS?

THIS IS MY DAMN *HOUSE.*

I'M NOT FIGHTING *THEM.*

I'M NOT FIGHTING *ANYONE.*

YOU.

YOU *BROUGHT* THEM ALL HERE.

WHAT IS IT EXACTLY THAT YOU *WANT* FROM ME?

COME ON. *TELL* ME.

YOU'RE *DYING* TO. I CAN *SEE* IT.

ALL RIGHT, JESSICA. HAVE IT YOUR WAY.

I CAN SEE YOU'RE PUZZLED.

LET ME GIVE YOU THE MESSY *DETAILS.*

"I GOT MY POWERS A LITTLE YOUNG. AGE 16, ACTUALLY.

"MAYBE I WAS A BIT IMMATURE. I WON'T DENY IT.

"BUT I HAD A BOYFRIEND, AND I WAS *HAPPY.*

"I MEAN, AT LEAST HE WAS *GOING* TO BE MY BOYFRIEND.

"I WAS *SURE* OF IT. I HAD A *SPECIAL FEELING.*

"AS SOON AS WE *MET,* I MEAN.

"THEN SOME REDHEADED *SLUT* WHO DIDN'T EVEN HAVE A *CODENAME* DELIBERATELY *STOLE* HIM FROM ME.

SUMMERS/GREY TO WED!

"FROM *ME.*

"I WENT TO CONFRONT THEM.

XAVIER INSTITUTE FOR HIGHER LEARNING

"IT'S ONLY NATURAL.

"I ADMIT IT.

"I LOST MY TEMPER."

GOOD GOD IN HEAVEN.

YOU'RE TELLING ME... COLOSSUS, PHOENIX...

I COULDN'T TAKE EITHER *ONE* OF THEM ON MY *BEST DAY.*

HOW DID YOU EVEN...?

OH, JESSICA, JESSICA. YOU'RE PRECIOUS.

YOU THINK I HAVE *YOUR* POWERS?

NO, DEAR.

"THEY'RE MORE LIKE *ROGUE'S.*

"WHICH I *DISCOVERED* WHEN I BASHED HER SILLY *FACE* IN.

"IT WAS MY COMING OF AGE, JESSICA.

"THE DAY I BECAME A *WOMAN.*

XAVIER INSTITUTE FOR HIGHER LEARNING

"THE DAY I FIRST SHAMPOOED A HERO'S *BLOOD* OUT OF MY *HAIR.*"

IT'S TRUE. THEY WERE MY FRIENDS.

THEN THEY WERE JUST...

...GONE.

THAT'S THE SICKEST THING I'VE EVER HEARD.

I'M JUST GETTING *STARTED.*

SEE, I SEARCHED FOR THAT SPECIAL FEELING. ALL *OVER* MY WORLD.

AVENGERS. DEFENDERS. NO *CHEMISTRY.*

"I'D *TAKE* THEIR STRENGTH. *TAKE* THEIR GIFTS. LEAVE THEM *HELPLESS.*

"BUT AFTER A FEW DAYS OF GLORY, THEY'D GO *BACK* TO THEIR OWNERS.

"UNTIL I MET A *UNIQUE* PRESENCE."

CAN YOU GUESS WHO HE *WAS?*

STRANGE.

YOU TRIED TO MARRY DOCTOR *STRANGE?*

OH, GOOD LORD, NO. NOT HUSBAND *MATERIAL.*

THAT *GOATEE!*

BUT I *DID* PULL THIS OFF HIS *CORPSE.*

JEWEL. WHATEVER YOUR NAME IS.

DID YOU... DO THIS THING TO OUR HUSBANDS?

IS THAT--?

THAT'S HOW THEY DIED, YES. I SIPHONED THEM WHILE THEY WERE IN COMBAT.

THEIR REJECTIONS WERE *RUDE.*

WHAT *CHOICE* DID I HAVE?

WIDOWS. BROKEN HEARTS THAT NEVER QUITE HEAL.

BECAUSE SOME TWISTED *FOAL* IS LOOKING FOR HER *SOULMATE.*

IT STOPS HERE.

EVIL LIKE THIS... IT CAN'T BE LEFT ALIVE.

IT FESTERS. IT *INFECTS* EVERYTHING AND *EVERYONE.*

AND THE JUSTICE BAND OF JESSICAS BEHIND ME?

THEY HAVE LOVED ONES ON THE LINE *TOO.*

IF YOU REFUSE MY KIND OFFER.

JESSICA JONES.

WILL YOU SWITCH *LIVES* WITH ME?

LUCAS... HE WOULD *NEVER...*

I'M YOUNGER.

I'M PRETTIER.

AND FRANKLY, I'M A BIT OF A *LIBERTINE.*

HE'LL *ADJUST.*

SHE'S NOT ANSWERING HER PHONE.

SOMETHING'S *WRONG.*

WE'LL TAKE CARE OF DANI, LUKE. GO GET YOUR WIFE.

BUT, MISTY...I MEAN, IF IT'S BAD. IF WE DON'T COME *BACK...*

YOU HEARD ME. ON BOTH COUNTS.

TELL DANI I LOVE HER. DON'T WAKE HER UP.

BUT TELL HER.

EVERY DAY.

GO TAKE CARE OF BUSINESS.

YEAH.

THAT'S KIND OF WHAT I'M *GOOD* AT.

WELL, LOOKEE HERE.

TURNS OUT *I* HAVE A TEMPER *TOO.*

OOOOFF.

THE ANSWER IS *"NO."*

YOU STINKING *TRASH.*

I DISTINCTLY HEARD HER SAY "NO FIGHTING."

WE'RE BADLY OUTNUMBERED. AND *THESE* VARIANTS ARE JUST FIGHTING SO THEY DON'T LOSE *THEIR* LOVED ONES.

AYE OR NAY.

THEY BENT THE KNEE TO JEWEL, KNOWING WHAT SHE DID TO OUR FAMILIES. WHAT SHE'LL DO TO THE *KID*.

WE SEND THEM HOME *BLOODY*.

COPY THAT.

I ADMIRE THE *SPUNK*.

SHE...SHE REALLY *IS* CAPTAIN AMERICA, *HUH?*

GIVE PRIME COVER.

LET'S *AVENGER* THESE $#@%&#@.

YOU KNOW, THE MOMENT I SAW LUCAS...

...I GOT THAT SPECIAL FEELING.

I'M GOING TO DRAIN HIM. JUST A BIT. EVERY DAY.

I THINK HE'LL GROW TO LOVE IT. WHAT DO YOU THINK, JESSICA?

I THINK YOU DON'T KNOW MY *HUSBAND*, YOU TWISTED *BITCH.*

GET *OFF* ME.

YOU THINK YOU CAN *WIN* THIS?

I CAN DRAIN YOU, DRAIN YOU TO *DEATH.*

YEAH. YOU CAN.

BUT I'M GUESSING YOU HAVE TO *CONCENTRATE.*

HOLY *CRAP*, THAT WAS SATISFYING.

WHACK!

NO MATTER WHAT. NO MATTER THE COST.

THIS *"ME"* IS GOING *OUT* TONIGHT.

SORRY. BUT YOU ALL *ASKED* FOR THIS.

DIRECTIVE: EXTERMINATE VARIANT.

"OVERRIDE ARTIFICIAL-CONSCIENCE PROTOCOLS, AS IN PREVIOUS EXTERMINATION."

CHK

YEAH. NO.

WE DON'T HAVE TO *DO* THIS. DO YOU NOT SEE THAT?

WE TEAM UP. WE SEND YOU *HOME.*

BRNA

SOME OF US DON'T *HAVE* A HOME ANYMORE.

KRAKOOM

THEY HAVE US BEAT--TWO TO ONE, CAP. WE CAN'T WIN.

WE *WILL* WIN.

KNOW HOW I KNOW?

BLAM

BECAUSE INSIDE, DEEP DOWN IN THEIR WARRIORS' HEARTS...

...THEY HATE HER EVEN MORE THAN *WE* DO.

YOU'RE JUST LIKE KILLGRAVE, KID.

NO. YOU'RE *WORSE.*

GOTTA KEEP *AT* HER. NOT GIVE HER A SECOND TO--

--CONCENTRATE.

ENOUGH.

LECTURING ME? YOU THINK YOU CAN *LECTURE ME?*

MY *PARENTS* TRIED TO LECTURE ME. ON A FAMILY TRIP TO *ORLANDO.*

I LEFT THEM *DRAINED* IN A *DITCH.*

GOODBYE, JESSICA.

GURRKK...

KLLKK.

NO.

CAN'T GO OUT

NOT TILL... FMLY...

SAFE

GLDDH.

OKAY, XEROX.

DROP HER OR I DROP *YOU.*

LUKE.

SWEET.

LIKE *CHRISTMAS.*

DIDN'T I ASK YOU TO GET *UNDERGROUND?*

YEAH. GUESS I DIDN'T *LISTEN.*

IT'S OKAY.

THESE THINGS *HAPPEN.*

FOR THE PEOPLE YOU KILLED. FOR THE *PAIN* YOU'VE CAUSED.

→GASSSP!←

STAY THE &@%# *DOWN,* MISFIT TOY.

I ALMOST LAUGH.

I COULD END THIS RIGHT NOW. I DESERVE THAT.

BUT IT WOULDN'T MAKE ANY OF THEM *WHOLE.*

KILL YOU

DRAIN YOU ALL

VARIANTS.

SHE'S DOWN. SHE HAS NO HOLD OVER YOU.

SHE CAN'T DO ANYTHING *TO* YOU.

HOW ABOUT YOU COME KICK HER *ASS* FOR HER?

NO. *NOOOO!*

AND *THAT* RAIN-SOAKED, SHINING MOMENT...

...IS WHEN A SPOILED LITTLE *BRAT* LEARNED THE CONSEQUENCES OF TRYING TO PLAY THE *ADULT* GAME.

THE RAIN STOPPED AND THE CLOUDS PARTED.

I WASN'T SURE IF THAT WAS EVER GOING TO HAPPEN AGAIN.

I THINK THEY DID IT FOR *US.*

JUST WE TWO.

TURNS OUT, KNIGHTRESS DIDN'T GET SUMMONED HERE WITH THE REST. SHE'D BEEN HUNTING THE KILLER.

AND HAD ANOTHER CARPOOL DRIVER ENTIRELY.

HER EARTH'S SORCERER SUPREME. DR. WANDA ***STRANGE.***

TURNS OUT KNIGHTRESS WAS DATING HER ***BROTHER*** OR SOMETHING.

DON'T LOOK AT ME--I NEVER UNDERSTAND WHAT IFS.

THEY COULDN'T LET JEWEL GET CLOSE...THE DANGER OF ***STRANGE*** BEING DRAINED WAS TOO ***HIGH.***

BUT BINDING AN UNCONSCIOUS SERIAL KILLER, THAT WAS RIGHT IN HER WEIRD ***WHEELHOUSE.***

REGRET SUBROUTINE ENGAGED. REMORSE IN OVERDRIVE.

WHAT SHE'S TRYIN' TUH SAY, IS WE...WE RECKON WE'RE POWERFUL SORRY, MA'AM. THAT THERE SIDEWINDER, SHE--

I KNOW.

JUST GO.

TRY TO LIVE A LIFE THAT ***MEANS*** SOMETHING.

AND THAT SEEMED LIKE IT. ALMOST A HAPPY ENDING.

ALL THINGS CONSIDERED.

WAIT. SHE DOESN'T-- SHE DOESN'T *HAVE* IT.

WHERE'S THE EYE?

OH NO. SISTER. DON'T.

WHERE'S THE *EYE OF AGAMOTTO?*

OMEGA.

OKAY. LISTEN. JUST LISTEN.

SHE DROPPED IT. I JUST...I JUST GRABBED IT.

I DIDN'T THINK, OKAY?

I'M NOT *LIKE* HER. I DON'T...I DON'T WANT TO TAKE ANYTHING FROM ANYONE.

I JUST...

I JUST WANT MATT.

PLEASE.

IS THAT SO WRONG? IS THAT--?

JESSICA. PLEASE.

WILL YOU SWITCH LIVES WITH ME?

SHE'S GOING TO OPEN A *PORTAL.*

SHE COULD DESTROY *EVERYTHING!*

STAND DOWN, LADY.

GIVE HER THIS MOMENT.

OMEGA. *JESSICA.*

YOU LOST EVERYTHING ONCE AND REBUILT.

I SWEAR. YOU CAN DO IT AGAIN.

I THOUGHT.

I THOUGHT I SAW A LIGHT.

I KNOW.

I'M SORRY.

I'M SO SORRY.

AND THEN THEY WERE GONE.

SOMETIMES YOU WIN, AND SOMEONE ELSE LOSES.

SOMEONE WHO DIDN'T DESERVE IT.

DAWN'S COMING.

IT'S HERE ALREADY.

YOU GOING TO EXPLAIN WHAT HAPPENED, MAYBE?

AND SOMETIMES, YOU FEEL THAT HURT FOR A LONG, LONG TIME.

COME SIT HERE, LIKE WHEN WE WERE COURTING.

"COURTING"? *THAT'S* WHAT YOU CALL IT?

MR. SARCASM.

LUKE, I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU.

I DECIDED I DON'T WANT TO BE ANYBODY ELSE.

NO TWO HUNDRED SHADES OF RED. NO GIRLY PINK.

I JUST WANT TO BE JESSICA.

JESSICA, YOU THINK I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS.

I DO.

AND I'M GOOD. I'M IN. FOR THE LONG HAUL.

SHE'LL FIND HER LIGHT, JESS.

I DON'T SAY ANYTHING.

HE'S NEVER REALLY *LOST* ANYONE.

NOT EVEN HIMSELF.

I SAY A QUIET LITTLE PRAYER INSTEAD.

OH, LOOK.

MORNING BLUSH.

THE END.

#1 VARIANT BY **BEN CALDWELL**

#1 VARIANT BY **ASHLEY WITTER**

SO YOU WANT ME TO DO ONE OF MY VARIANTS?
YES.
OF YOU AND YOUR VARIANTS?
CORRECT.
ON A BOOK TITLED VARIANTS?
YUP. IF YOU GIVE ME A FEW MINUTES, I'M SURE I CAN FIND YOU A SHARK TO JUMP OVER.
SKOTTIE YOUNG 2022

#1 VARIANT BY **SKOTTIE YOUNG**

#2 VARIANT BY **IVAN SHAVRIN**

#3 VARIANT BY **BETSY COLA**

"When coupled with Phil Noto's effortlessly cool and timeless art, The Variants is an absolute knockout for Marvel Comics." – ComicBook.com

WHAT WOULD IT BE LIKE TO MEET YOUR OWN ALIAS?

THAT'S THE QUESTION FACING JESSICA JONES, as what seemed like a routine investigation instead has her encountering other incarnations of herself from across the Multiverse! Can Jessica get along with herself? Will she want to kill her other selves? And will seeing the roads she could have traveled drive her into a self-destructive spiral? This is what happens when you meet...the Variants! Jessica might just be losing her mind – and worse still, as she's backed into an impossible corner, she's forced to make a sacrifice play that could cost her a member of her own family!

T+

MARVEL

COLLECTING ***THE VARIANTS (2022) #1-5*** – BY GAIL SIMONE AND PHIL NOTO.